

THE
CENTENNIAL HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF BAY

AND

BAY CITY, MICH.

EMBRACING A BRIEF SKETCH OF THEIR

ORGANIZATION, PIONEER HISTORY, GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT,

From 1857 to 1876.

Compiled under Authority of the Common Council of Bay City
and the Board of Supervisors of Bay County, Mich., on
recommendation of Congress and Proclamation of
His Excellency, the President of the United
States, and of the Governor of Michigan.



BAY CITY:
PRINTED BY A. M. BIRNEY, AT THE CHRONICLE PRINTING HOUSE.
1876.

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By GEORGE W. HOTCHKISS.



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DEDICATORY.

TO the Citizens of Bay County, in the Centennial year of the Nation's history, and as well their successors in the far distant future of her growth and progress, is this little volume respectfully dedicated by the Common Council of Bay City, and the Board of Supervisors of Bay County, as an index of the early history, struggles and triumphs of the present inhabitants of what promises to become a still more important center of Commercial manufacturing, and Agricultural wealth and influence. Through your humble servants, the committees in behalf of

BAY CITY.

DARWIN C. SMALLEY.
ORVILLE A. WATROUS.
HERSCHEL H. HATCH.
SIDNEY S. CAMPBELL.
GEORGE W. HOTCHKISS.

BAY COUNTY.

BENJAMIN F. PARTRIDGE.
LEMAN L. CULVER.
ELBRIDGE W. OAKES.
JOHN BULLOCK.
WINSOR SCOFIELD.

GEORGE W. HOTCHKISS,

Bay City, July 4th, 1876.

Historian.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE advent of the centennial year of the Republic, lends a great and ever increasing charm to all those facts connected with the early history of the country, and as well, to all those individual surroundings, which the experience of States, Counties and Cities have realized in emerging from the wilderness, which only one hundred years ago involved almost the entire of the American continent, and assuming those important relations which now unite them in the bonds of commercial unity as component parts of a nation whose watchword is "Progress," and whose civilization is the envy of the world. With a view to perpetuating in history a record of the growth and development of the nation, His Excellency, President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant, has recommended in the centennial year of the country's existence as a nation, that each village, county and city, should prepare a history of its settlement, organization and progress, a copy of which should be deposited with the proper officials of the locality described, and with the State and Congressional librarian. This suggestion having been endorsed in a proclamation by His Excellency John J. Bagley, Governor of the State of Michigan, the Common Council of Bay City did on the 29th day of May, A. D. 1876, adopt the following resolution :

INTRODUCTORY.

RESOLVED—That the chair appoint a committee, to prepare a history of the city of Bay City, to be read on the coming 4th of July, and afterwards filed in the County Clerk's office, and in the office of the State Librarian, in accordance with the resolution of Congress, and the proclamation of the President of the United States, and of John J. Bagley, Governor of the State of Michigan. Which resolution being adopted, the chair appointed as such committee, Aldermen D. C. Smalley and Orville A. Watrous, ex-Aldermen H. H. Hatch and George W. Hotchkiss, and the Hon. Sidney S. Campbell.

The Board of Supervisors of Bay county, at a session held June 14th, 1876, passed a similar resolution and appointed Supervisors B. F. Partridge, Leman L. Culver, Elbridge W. Oakes, John Bullock, and Winsor Scofield as a committee in their behalf, to carry out the object of the President and Governors recommendation.

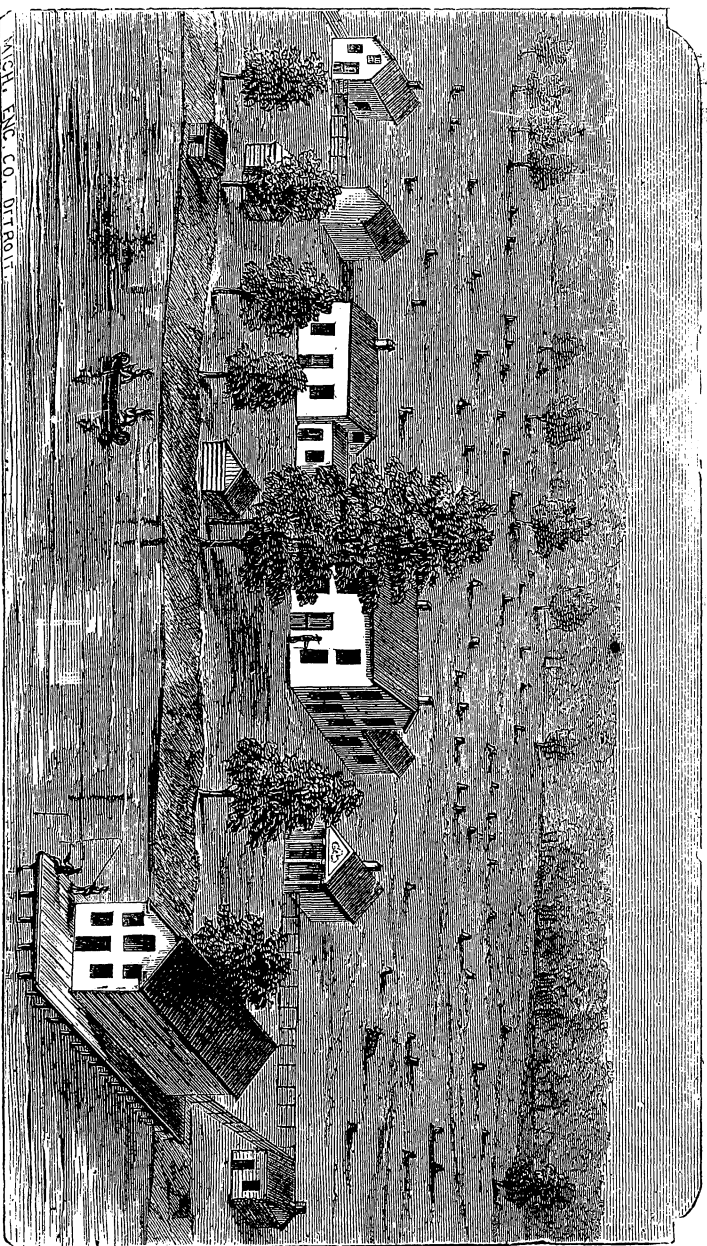
In accordance with this resolution the said joint committee have undertaken the task of presenting to the world a brief resume of the settlement and organization of Bay County, and of its growth and progress to the present date, including in the same, a history of Bay City from the date of its incorporation as a village, with the more important circumstances in its history, which will enable the reader to draw a contrast between its first conditions, and its wonderful development during its brief historic existence, but almost magical growth.

In January, 1876, a history of the early struggle of the territory comprised within the limits of Bay County, to obtain a separate and distinct organization, was prepared by Mr. Benjamin F. Partridge, and read before the Pioneer Society of Bay County, which the compilers of this work have adopted as the preliminary chapter of this volume, endeavouring to take up the history of the county

INTRODUCTORY.

at the point where it is left by that paper, and collecting the principal points of interest in the subsequent development of the County of Bay, and Bay City, trusting that it may be of interest to the present inhabitants of the County, and an index to future generations engaged in extending the work so nobly begun in the present, of the enterprise and energy of those who toiled at the foundation walls, to prepare for a structure which should do credit to the builders.

BAY CITY IN 1838.



NASH, ENC. CO. DETROIT

8. S. Campbell's Birney Barn.
Residence.

J. G. Birney's
Residence.

First Residence S. S. Campbell,
now Globe Hotel.

J. G. Birney's
Law Office.

Dry Kiln.

Leon Trombley Residence.

Ice Cellar.

Smoke House.

Bay County Warehouse.

The Warehouse stood at the foot of Center St. The Globe Hotel and the office of Jas. G. Birney (who was the original Abolition Candidate for Presidency), were at the foot of 5th Street. The Birney residence was on the corner of the present Water and 4th Sts. Leon Trombley's house was on the north side of Water and 4th Sts. Judge Campbell's residence between 2d and 3d Sts. This view embraces all of the city at that date, comprising a clearing of fifty acres.

BAY COUNTY.

ITS EARLY STRUGGLES FOR EXISTENCE.

PREPARED BY B. F. PARTRIDGE, FOR THE BAY COUNTY
PIONEER SOCIETY.

THE present passing events in a few years become a matter of history, memory, or tradition. Memory may and does fail; tradition founded on the memory, and the caprice of the memory, is more liable to be far from the facts; and about the only safe deposit of passing events is *written* history. made by those who were the actors in the events of which they chronicle. And as one such, upon request of many, I shall try, unbiased and unprejudiced, to write the history of our county in its efforts for organization, to its final admitted consummation, and thence to this date.

Of the first efforts I only know in part, from others I glean the rest. The first efforts for its organization, were made in 1855, when the Hon. J. S. Barclay, who was elected a member of the Legislature from Saginaw county, in November, 1854, and who resided in Lower Saginaw, then a part of Saginaw county, now Bay City, saw a favorable opportunity for pressing the scheme, with hopes of success. The Hon. Judge Albert Miller, and

the irrepressible Daniel Burns, (Mr. Burns was then in the prime of life, with a bright future before him, more so than the common lot of man) were sent to the "Third House" for that purpose, and two more fitting men at that time, and at that juncture, could not have been selected for the mission; but such was the opposition to the bill at that early and first effort, that although the bill came near passing, it was defeated by a small majority.

The opposition to the bill in the "third house" was strong, numerous and influential. The indifferent, yielded to their influence and importunities.

At this time Lower Saginaw was hardly known, save to our "up town" neighbors (those above Carrolton bar), and was their bugbear and coming rival, while East Town and Saginaw were in all their glory and prosperity; and the then "Little Giant," Lower Saginaw, was struggling for an existence, against odds that seemed impossible to overcome, but with will, and dare to do, it finally succeeded.

At that time the indifferent consented to the claims of its opponents, that the matter was too premature—"wait and see," and if necessary the organization, if hereafter it should be deemed proper, could be allowed. Just as if a *right* was to be *allowed*, and not at once conceded! The argument generally submitted to by the indifferent, and urged by our opponents—those whose interests opposed our organization, or thought their interests were so opposed, claimed they could defeat all subsequent bills of the kind. The effort, although it failed, was not without its effect. It brought the matter somewhat before the public, and the indifferent ones began to inquire more particularly in regard to it, and many of them admitted the justice of the claims for our organization.

In 1857, the Hon. James Birney, Col. Henry Raymond, B. F. Partridge and some others were selected as a committee to the "third house," to press the matter of our organization, and if possible to procure the passage of an act for the same. The Hon. T. Jerome, of Saginaw City, Representative from Saginaw county, and Henry Ashman, from Midland county, were elected in November, 1856, to that session of the Legislature, both of whom, as they undoubtedly supposed their interests demanded and their supporters required of them, opposed our organization. They undoubtedly acted conscientiously in their opposition, and consistent with their pledges before election, but I will say here, I do not know, and it is not charged, and never has been to our knowledge, that either of them did anything in their opposition, dishonorable or unmanly. I give them credit that they acted, without doubt, as they thought their duty demanded. The Legislature, at this time, one may say, was the same as unanimously Republican, and those sent to the "third house" to represent our interest and organization were wholly so; we hoped therefor a "fellow feeling" might arise, and thereby the former opposition might abate somewhat. Such was the general effect. After a great deal of effort on the one side to secure our organization, and of the other to oppose and defeat it, a compromise was finally settled upon by the members of the "third house," and the members for Saginaw and Midland counties, by the efforts and advice of the friends of the several parties interested; and as it was a local matter, and the members of the counties interested therein finally approved of the bill, it passed the Legislature, and was approved by the Governor February 17th, 1857.

The territory of Bay county at that time contained but few voters compared to Saginaw county, for Bay county

only took a small part from Saginaw county. Its largest territory came from Midland county, viz : The unorganized county of Arenac, in which territory at that time, aside from Indians, perhaps not ten voters resided.

As long, stormy and arduous as the efforts were, to get the bill for our organization through the Legislature, yet more difficult and arduous were the labors to firmly determine and consummate the same—that is, our sure and settled organization. Section 1. of the act organizing Bay county reads as follows :

“ That the following territory [described] shall be organized into a county, and shall be known and called Bay county, [refer to the act of organization for the description, etc.,] and the inhabitants thereof entitled to all the rights and privileges to which by law the inhabitants of the other organized counties of this State are entitled.”

The original act presented, or to be presented, to the Legislature, was drawn by C. H. Freeman, then and now of Bay City, and practising law. The description of territory was made by B. F. Patridge, and had that bill passed as then drawn, no question would ever have arisen, as to the legality of our organization as a county, but the opposition to it was so great, that the compromise heretofore spoken of was effected, and changes were necessarily made in the bill, and section 2 was added, which became the bone of future contention.

The said section, when first added, originally read at the commencement and end, as follows : “ This act shall be submitted to a vote of the electors of Saginaw county, at the township meetings to be holden in said county [here providing how the vote should be taken, and the section ending,] and in case a majority of the said votes upon the approval of this act shall be in favor of such approval, then this act shall take effect upon the 20th day of April, 1857 ; but if a majority of said votes

shall be against such approval. then this act shall not take effect, but shall be void."

The honorable member from Saginaw county, was perfectly satisfied that the act should pass in this shape, provided it was left to his constituents to say whether they should oppose it or not, or kill it and relieve him of the unenviable honor, as that would remove the contest from the Legislature to his constituents, who would kill it at once, for it was well known that there would be ten against, to one for the act, if Saginaw county people had any right to vote on the question. Therefore the member for Saginaw, and others who opposed the organization, ceased their opposition to the bill in the Legislature, expecting to kill the whole thing at the polls; but ere the bill passed, there came in this good fortune for Bay county, if so it may be called. The member for Midland county, thought Saginaw county should not have all the honor of slaughtering in its embryo the, future organization of this county, but thought, and perhaps justly so, that his constituents also should have a hand in the game of killing the "Little Giant," while yet its nurse was trying to dress it in its swadding clothes; and for such purpose offered an amendment to said section, by adding immediately after the words "Saginaw county" the words "Midland and Arenac counties," so that the act as passed reads:

"This act shall be submitted to a vote of the electors of Saginaw county, Midland and Arenac counties, at the township meetings to be holden in *said* county."

The said vote was taken on the said first Monday, of April, as provided for in the act, Saginaw and Midland also voting thereon. In the territory comprising Bay county, the vote was almost unanimous in favor of organization, there being 204 for, to 14 against; but in Sagi-

naw and Midland counties it was largely against, so much so, one may say it was unanimous against us.

Great were the rejoicings of those opposed to the organization of Bay county, especially in Saginaw City, as the county seat of Saginaw county was there. About one-third of the cases in the Circuit Court, hailed from this part of Saginaw county, and necessarily contributed largely to their prosperity, we having to go there to court and leave what little money we had, in the hands of lawyers and hotel-keepers, and as court fees, etc.; and besides, as long as we were on the tail of their kite, we tended to assist in their prosperity and to correspondingly diminish ours.

Mr. Freeman always claimed that the act only left the vote of its approval to the voters of "*said county*,"—that is, Bay county,—and he now more vehemently than ever, as he saw from the opposition from the upper towns, that the truthfulness of his position was the only probable chance of success, set the same forth as the only true construction of the act, and advised the election of the county officers, to take place as provided in the act of organization. Accordingly the election was held on the first Monday of June, 1857, when there were elected the following county officers: Sidney S. Campbell, Judge of Probate; James Watson, Treasurer; Nathan Simons, Sheriff; Elijah Catlin, County Clerk; Stephen P. Wright, a young and promising lawyer, and who afterwards went to the State of California, where he represented his county in the Legislature and his district in the Senate, and held the office of District Attorney for several years, and all with the highest honors to himself and his constituents, was elected Circuit Court Commissioner; Theodore M. Bligh, a young physician, was elected Register of Deeds. Both the last named

have passed to their final rest, respected, honored and beloved by all who knew them. And C. H. Freeman, still a resident of Bay City, was elected Prosecuting Attorney. All qualified, as provided by the act of organization, and prepared themselves for business in the discharge of their several offices.

As I have heretofore said, the bone of contention was section second—or, I should say, its true construction was such—and as the approval of the act, incident upon the vote of Saginaw and Midland counties, was largely against its approval—that is, if the vote of Saginaw and Midland counties was counted, but not otherwise—Saginaw and Midland now claimed that the act was not “approved,” and that therefore it “never took effect, and was void,” and claimed jurisdiction severally of that portion of Bay county set off from them; and more especially so did Saginaw county, for its interests were greater, and in proportion to the magnitude of its supposed or real interests, it set forth its claim. It set the same forth, and claimed jurisdiction over that portion of Bay county taken off, as described in the act, the same as if such act had never been passed, claiming that the same was null and void, for it had failed to be approved by the votes of Saginaw, Midland and Bay counties, and the writs from the Circuit Court of that county continued to be issued by their County Clerk, and to be served by the Sheriff thereof, the same as if Bay county did not in fact exist, in all the territory taken from Saginaw county, including that in Bay county.

The citizens of Bay county saw the dilemma and confusion matters were getting into on account of the conflict of jurisdiction, and many of them—and we may say the principal of them—advised an acquiescence in the claim of Saginaw. And allow me here to say that a very fortunate thing it was for Bay county that Mr.

Freeman had an undying and irrepressible belief in his position—that is, that the intention of the Legislature was to submit the approval of the act to the electors of Bay county only—and who now, in this crucial time of our existence (for as a fact we did then exist; although it may be it was in a doubtful state, yet, as a fact, nevertheless true), put forth and urged his position more vehemently and persistently than ever, and a few—and I believe I am justified in saying a very few—partly to encourage him and stay his hands, and partly because they say no other hope of success, gave him encouragement, hoping against hope that he was right, yet doubtful of the correctness of his position—still willing to give him all the encouragement they could, until a final decision of the Supreme Court might settle the matter.

Some of the most prominent persons of the upper towns who opposed our organization, as I have always understood, consulted quite a number of the best lawyers of the State on the question, and all were of but one opinion, and expressed but one, and that was that the vote was left to Saginaw, Midland and Arenac counties (Arenac was then an unorganized county, and was attached to Midland for judicial purposes), and that the vote was in the negative of the act of organization, and that therefore the same was not “approved,” but was “null and void.”

Thus matters drifted with clash of jurisdiction, and confusion was getting worse, when an opportunity was presented to test the question in a suit, wherein Mr. Freeman was attorney for the defendant, and the Hon. John Moore, Prosecuting Attorney of Saginaw county, was for the prosecution. For the opportunity so to test this question Mr. Freeman had long been waiting, and as he knew some such case must come, he patient-

ly abided his time. The late Hon. Wm. M. Fenton was associated with Mr. Freeman as counsel, and when he was retained by the defendant, pronounced at first sight, as all others had done, against the organization of Bay county ; but when his attention was called more particularly to the wording of the act, and a few of the plain rudimentary principles of the construction of statutes, he saw at once his error, and entered into the spirit of the case. From that moment Mr. Freeman had a powerful assistant, true and faithful.

Before going on with this case further, I will return to the winter of 1859, when there was an extra session of the Legislature. Mr. Freeman and Mr. Daniel Burns were sent to the "third house" of that short session, to see what could be done in settling the organization of Bay county, and if possible to get the county definitely and permanently organized by the Legislature. Mr. Jerome, of Saginaw, and Mr. Ashman, of Midland, now as strongly as ever opposed us, or any act tending to legalize the organization. They saw the confusion matters were in, but said it was all ourselves and our figuring which had brought it about, by *pretending* to organize when we ought not to have done so. But on this point, they were informed, others differed with them, and, as there were differences of opinion, even if nearly all were one way (here I will mention the fact that the chairman of the committee on towns and counties believed that section 2 could have no other construction than such as Mr. Freeman gave to it, and he felt the necessity of something being done in the matter), yet the few had some right to demand respect. This they admitted, but still set themselves against anything like an organization. Many members of the Legislature, however, after they were shown how matters stood, thought that

if we were not a county, we ought to be one, and had shown ourselves worthy and well qualified to have an organization ; but then, as it was a rule, although an unwritten one, that all local matters should be left to the members representing the district to be affected thereby, they did not wish to interfere, but they thought something should be done to settle the matters that were in litigation, by appeal or otherwise, and they were willing to assist in such a way.

The chairman of the committee on towns and counties was in favor of our organization, and assisted greatly in getting the bill through the Legislature.

Quite a number of suits had been commenced in the township of Hampton. Some laid their venue in Bay County, and some in Saginaw County, just as the caprice of the plaintiff might suggest. The most of these suits were commenced in justice courts, and in most cases the defendant in the case, where judgment was rendered against him, appealed to Bay or Saginaw County, knowing that if it were Bay County, the appeal to Saginaw County would end the suit, and *vice versa* ; and the record shows that nearly all the suits were appealed, and a few cases had been commenced in Bay County Circuit Court.

Mr. Freeman had carefully prepared three bills before he started for the "third house." These bills were approved by those interested for Bay County, and it was understood that if the members for Bay County to the "third house" could not get the one through that they wished, then they were to do the best they could.

The chairman of the committee on towns and counties readily approved bill number one, which had been prepared, which would, if passed, at once settle our organization. But Messrs. Jerome and Ashman had to be con-

sulted. They could not be induced to be silent, should either of these bills be offered to the Legislature, and then, the Governor would recommend only such a bill as all parties could agree upon, as general business demanded attention before local bills. However just the Governor may have supposed he was, it only had the effect to give the members from Saginaw and Midland more power to kill the efforts made by our members to the "third house." But the latter went to work with a will, and Mr. Freeman then made an effort to prepare such a bill as the members from Saginaw and Midland would not oppose, if they could not approve. So after several days it was accomplished.

The bill provided that the Circuit Judge of the district in which said county of Bay was situated should hold court in Bay City, in said territory, and should hear, try and determine all suits commenced in said Circuit Court, in said territory, and all appeals to the same, etc., with other sections confirming jurisdiction in said territory.

This bill meeting the approval of the members for Saginaw and Midland Counties, was duly recommended by the Governor and passed unanimously. The Governor had promised to approve the bill, but it having passed on Friday, too late to be approved by the Governor before he left the Capital, he did not receive the bill until the next week. Messrs. Freeman and Burns left the Capital for home on Saturday evening, well satisfied. When the Governor received the bill for approval, he saw at once its force,—that is, that the bill really established the organization of Bay County—and he sent for Messrs. Jerome and Ashman, as I am informed, and drew their attention to this fact, and wished to know if they desired him to approve the bill. Mr.

Jerome did not wish the bill approved, and it was not approved, although several other members urged the Governor's promise, that the bill should be approved.

Here it will be proper for me to say, that one great objection raised to our organization was, that it would be a Democratic county. But all joined in the assurance that this was nothing like a certainty, and that the probability was, that a Republican member from Bay County would be chosen in the person of James Birney, and Mr. Freeman stated that under the circumstances Mr. Birney would be his choice. But, I am told, that instead of abating or cooling opposition, it rather added to it.

This was the last effort ever made through the Legislature toward an organization. Mr. Freeman and his friends now saw that any further effort must be through the courts, based upon the act of 1857, and acted accordingly, resolving to fight it through on that line, and the war went on.

Mr. Freeman and Mr. Wright arranged a suit to be sent up to the Supreme Court for a decision. But the suit upon which the question was finally settled had been *bona fide* commenced. I now give the parties, as well as the attorneys, in this suit, and they were all interested on either side equally, as to the organization of Bay County, and the battle now must be fought on that line. It was Bay County or no Bay County. All parties prepared for action, each sure of the case in his favor.

The case was one by the people. The late Dr. Dion Birney was the complainant vs. Daniel Burns. Burns was charged with perjury, said to have been committed June 29th, 1857, at the township of Hampton. The defendant filed a plea of abatement, alleging that "the said supposed offence, if any was committed, was committed within the jurisdiction of Bay county, and not within

the jurisdiction of this court—meaning the jurisdiction of the Saginaw county Circuit Court. Upon this plea, issue was taken, and a case was made and certified to the Supreme Court, and was heard at the May term, 1858, at Detroit. Mr. Freeman had staked his reputation as a lawyer upon the result of this suit, and he prepared a full and exhaustive argument in the case, and whoever may read the same, will come to the same conclusion.

A little incident in the passing events of the suit I feel called upon to relate quite fully, as it tends to show the opinion of the legal profession on the question, and the worth and character of the late Hon. Wm. M. Fenton, of Flint, perhaps as no other thing could do. And this is my apology.

It was well known that Mr. Freeman did not attend the Supreme Court on the argument of this case, for the reason, that a few days before the case was to come on for argument, Mr. Freeman was confined to his bed with a fever, and was quite as insensible of what was going on in the case, as "Rip Van Winkle," except that the suit was uppermost in his wild and feverish head. Now, Mrs. Freeman comprehended the situation, and knew that Mr. Freeman could not possibly recover to be in Detroit to argue the case, so she sent all the papers with the argument prepared (in writing), to Mr. Fenton, informing him of the situation of her husband. Mr. Fenton replied to her, "All shall be attended to," and the result shows that it was. The first time Mr. Fenton met Mr. Freeman after the case was decided, he said to him that when he arrived in Detroit, several of the most prominent lawyers (giving names) advised him to drop the suit, and not expose himself to ridicule, but to let Freeman alone, to fall, etc. He informed them that Mr. Freeman was sick and could not be

there, and Mrs. Freeman had requested him to see to the suit, and he had written her that he would ; that he was of their opinion, till his attention had been called to some of the words and language of the act, and he should soon call theirs to the same points; that he had not gone far in the argument when it was conceded that his premises in the case were correct, and that when he had reached the close of his not very lengthy argument, there was nothing for the Hon. John Moore to reply to with any force.

But allow me here to say, that I am told Mr. Moore did all that he could in the premises.

The case was submitted, and the next morning the court on opening gave the decision, which may be found commencing on page 114 of 5th Michigan Reports, (1st Cooley) sustaining the plea, and thus declaring Bay county organized.

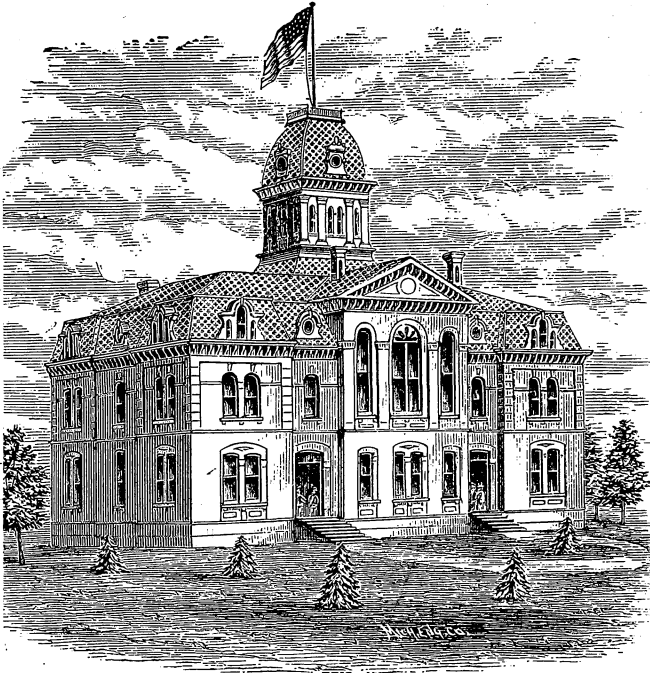
The next morning after the decision was made, the news was received here by the Detroit boat, that being the most reliable and shortest route we had. There was a route by rail, stage and canoe, and sometimes steamboat by the river, in the season, and by skates and sleighs on the ice of the river in its season, but not any road for general travel nearer than East Saginaw on this side the river, and Zilwaukie on the other. There being no cannon here, and no military company with fire arms, with which to sound the glad tidings of the reality of Bay county, the only anvil in the county was pressed into service; and the cannonading would drown, and did drown, the sleepy ideas of some of the sleepy people of this infant city, and send them along the path to prosperity and to wealth. The news brought the people to their right senses, and the city and county have rushed along the rough track of building up, and burning down, and rebuilding in more substantial style.

So long as we belonged to Saginaw county, our progress was slow. We might, we would grow, and did, but we were at the mercy of the upper towns, and thus the growth was nothing like rushing business, as was done up the river—like mushrooms, soon reaching their limits, and then ! But our growth has been steady, substantial and rapid, as predicted by all far-seeing business men, and hence the joy over our success was universal.

As a city,—I mean Bay City,—from a little hamlet on the Saginaw river, we have superceded Saginaw City, and in a year or two more will be second to none in the valley. And besides, there has sprung up in the immediate vicinity of Bay City, the villages of Salzburg, Wrenona, Banks and Essexville, all lively, thriving places, the smallest of them larger than Bay City was, when she became the county seat of Bay county; and when the county commenced its career, she could not count more than 1500 inhabitants. At this date we can safely count near 30,000, and our material and financial interests have grown in proportion, and from two towns, we have now seventeen organized in the county, in which there are found at this date, at least twelve villages, besides the thriving city of Bay City, with her seventeen thousand, inhabitants.

Also, this county has grown from a Board of Supervisors of two only, (Judge Campbell and Mr. Smock) to that of twenty-eight on the present Board. The first Board had but little to do, and never disagreed about the finances of the county. They paid the prosecuting Attorney \$50 a year; now he is paid \$1,800. Other officers were paid in the same proportion. Sheriff Simons moved from the county, and his office became vacant. The proper authorities appointed B. F. Part-

ridge to fill the vacancy. Immediately after this the Sheriff leased a place for a court room, and prepared a jail. The jail occupied the lots where the Rivet Bros' blacksmith shop now stands, and was swept away in the first great fire in Bay City. The court room building now stands as it did then. We now have a Court House in which all can have a feeling of just pride; a jail second to none in the State, many stately private residences and business places, many very fine churches, several large and elegant hotels, two fine bridges (one being rebuilt of iron), several railroads and fine depots and railroad bridge, machine shops and iron foundries, manufactories, mills, salt blocks and lumber yards, that bespeak the cultivated taste and business abilities of the people of the city and county, and furnish employment for thousands of people and that required an investment of an immense amount of capital. The banks in the county, rank among the best in the State. The farming interests of the county have kept pace with every other branch of business. From 21 farms in Bay county in 1855, the number now runs up to 2,600. All this goes to show the thrift and prosperity of the whole people. As a city, Bay City surpasses all others of the same number of inhabitants in the State, for its safety from fire, and convenience for water, using the Lake Huron water through pipes from the lake to the city; her streets are beautifully laid out and ornamented; her street railway is finely furnished, and is a paying institution; her places of amusement and public library are of the finest class, Westover's Opera House being the best place of the kind in the valley; and the numerous vessels and steamers and tugs in the harbor of Bay City at all times, show her great commercial advantages; her custom house reports and clearances being greater in number than those of any other city in the whole State of Michigan. No man need be ashamed to register his name in hotels in other cities, as a resident of Bay City.



Bay County Court House.

BAY COUNTY.

THE GROWTH AND PROGRESS OF BAY COUNTY.

A HISTORY of Bay County would be incomplete without, in at least a measure, tracing its growth and progress. While from sparsity of population the county, at its organization, consisted of but the two organized townships of Hampton and Williams, with a county board consisting of but two members, the territory comprised within its boundaries was of sufficient extent, when settled, to create many more, and we find the pro-

gress and development to have been so great that in 1876 we have seventeen townships and one chartered city, with two village corporations, embraced within the county limits, represented upon the Board of Supervisors by a membership of twenty-eight. The first meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held August 10th, 1858, and was attended by Supervisor Sidney S. Campbell, who was chairman, and represented the township of Hampton, and Supervisor George W. Smock, representing the township of Williams. At the October meeting of that year, the equalized valuation of the county was set down as follows: Hampton, \$486,423.00; Williams, \$44,166.59—a total for the county of \$530,589.59. In the light of subsequent history, we are constrained to think, that the valuation of property was at that time, as high as the law would warrant, in order to make a good showing for the new county. The first incumbents of county offices in the new county, as shown by the county records, were as follows:

Clerk—THOMAS M. LYON.

Treasurer—JAMES WATSON.

(Second Mayor of Bay City.)

Register—THEODORE M. BLIGH.

Sheriff—NATHANIEL WHITEMORE.

Judge of Probate—SIDNEY S. CAMPBELL.

Prosecuting Attorney—JAMES BIRNEY.

Circuit Court Commissioner—WILLIAM L. SHERMAN.

County Surveyor—GUSTAVUS OTTO.

Coroners—GEORGE E. SMITH and WILLIAM C. SPICER.

The above named officers were, in fact, the second officers elected to fill their respective positions, the difficulties attending the first efforts to organize the county, having evidently led to a suspension of records. The first election in the county was held on the first Monday of June, 1857, being a special election, under the act

number 171 of the Session Laws of 1857, section 3, at which time the following board was elected, although the records of the county do not set forth the fact, so far as is now known ;

Clerk—ELIJAH CATLIN.

Treasurer—JAMES WATSON.

Register—THEODORE M. BLIGH.

Sheriff—WILLIAM SIMON.

Judge of Probate—SIDNEY S. CAMPBELL.

Prosecuting Attorney—CHESTER H. FREEMAN.

Circuit Court Commissioner—STEPHEN P. WRIGHT.

Surveyor—BENJAMIN F. PARTRIDGE.

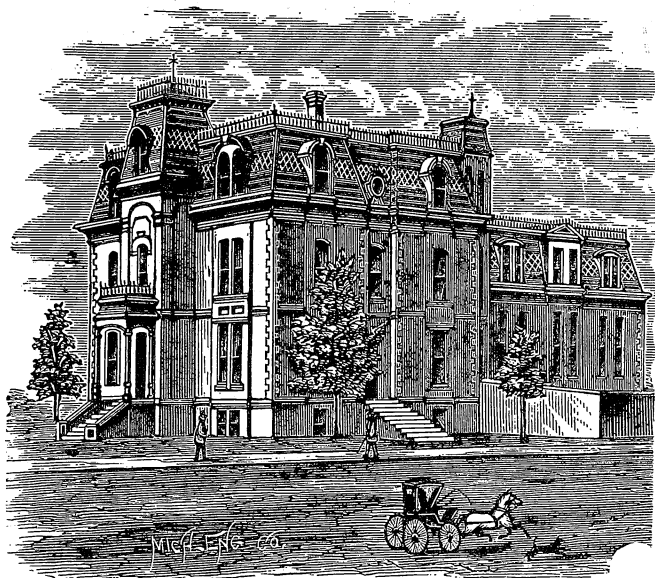
Coroners—WILLIAM C. SPICER and ———.

The term of office of these officers expired subsequent to the general election of 1858, the Supreme Court having, meantime, decided on the validity of the organization, the facts concerning which are fully set forth in the commencement of this history.

THE COUNTY BUILDINGS.

In the act incorporating Bay County, it was provided that in January succeeding the organization, the Board of Supervisors should locate the county seat, and fix upon the site for county buildings. Accordingly, the present site of Bay City was selected as the county seat, and two lots of each of the blocks cornering on Centre and Jefferson streets, in the plat of the village, by the Saginaw Bay land company, having therein been set apart for public purposes, the two corners on the east side of Jefferson street, were designated as the sites for the County buildings, and the selection was approved by the proprietors of the village plat. Temporarily, a wooden building was erected on 6th street, between Water and Saginaw streets, which for several years was used as a county jail, meeting with the common fate of

the neighboring buildings, in the great fire of 1863. Meantime a wooden building belonging to James Fraser, one of the enterprising and far seeing founders of the village, situated on the river bank, at the foot of 4th street, was used as a Court House, and by the officers of the County. until 1868, when the present Court House was built on the site before designated, at a cost of about \$40,000.



Bay County Jail.

This building combines all the modern appliances suited for the needs of the County and its officials. After the destruction of the jail in 1863, the Board of Supervisors secured the lease of a wooden building of one story, erected for the purpose by James Fraser, situated on the corner of Monroe and 7th streets, which did good service as a jail, and city lock-up, until 1870, when an elegant modern style, two story, white brick

building, was erected on the south-east corner of Centre and Jefferson streets, combining a residence for the sheriff, with iron lined jail in the rear, the cells of boiler iron being two stories in height in the center of the main room, with large corridors between the gratings, and the outer walls. The upper story of the building is fitted with accommodations for females, and fraudulent debtors; the whole structure is furnished with the most approved modern appliances for the safe and healthy detention of prisoners, pending their trial. Water pipes, and closets are arranged with an eye to the comfort and health of the prisoners, while measures for their proper use of the same, are fully provided for. The jail is esteemed a model one, and both it and the Court House are taken as patterns by surrounding counties in similar erections. The cost of the jail buildings and fittings has been \$40,000.

THE LEGAL FRATERNITY.

The legal fraternity are well represented in the county, and its members enjoy a well deserved reputation throughout the State. In 1875 one of its members, the Hon. Isaac Marston, was appointed by his Excellency Gov. Bagley, to the position of Attorney General of the State, to fill a vacancy, winning warm encomiums from his legal brethren throughout the State in his discharge of the duties of that position, and in 1875, Mr. Marston was elected a judge of the Supreme Court of the State. The Hon. Sanford M. Green, now presiding over the Eighteenth Judicial district, in which Bay County is included, is a member of the Bay County Bar, and has served with distinction in the capacity of Judge of the Supreme Court, and for a good portion of his life as a Circuit Judge, while "Green's Practice," is a text book and authority in all the Courts of the land. The Hon.

S. T. Holmes, who is also a member of the Bay County bar, achieved an enviable reputation as a lawyer and jurist in New York, and at one time represented the district in which he resided, in the Congress of the nation. Bay County Bar now numbers 42 members, including the presiding judge.



Watson Block.

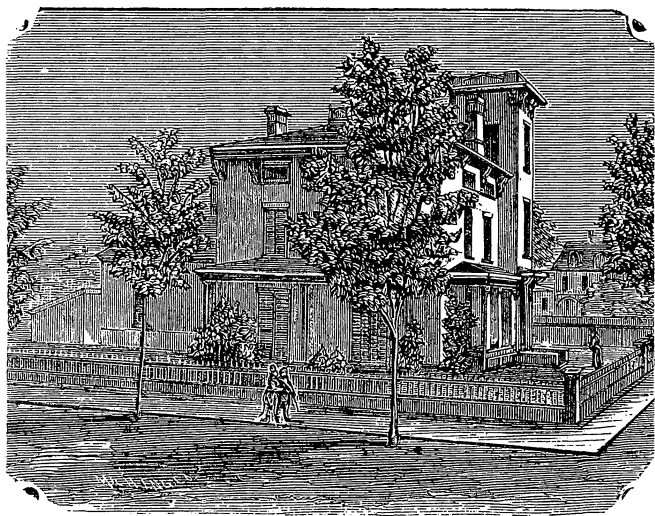
In February, 1859, the township of Arenac was constituted by the board, from territory theretofore attached to Williams, and Supervisor William Markham was the first representative upon the county board. In March, 1859, the townships of Bangor and Portsmouth were admitted by the board, the former from the territory of Williams, being first represented by Scott W. Sayles, the latter taken from the territory of Hampton, sending as its first

representative, Appleton Stevens, who subsequently, in 1874 and 1875, served, for two terms, honorably, as Mayor of Bay City, and in the State Legislature, as State Senator, for two terms. The census of the year 1860 gave to Bay County a population of 3,164. No more additions were made of new townships for several years, but, in 1865, a portion of Hampton being first incorporated a village, and then, by act of the Legislature, Bay City receiving a charter, each of her three wards became entitled to representatives on the Board of Supervisors, and George W. Hotchkiss, from the first, Alexander M. Johnson, from the second, and John McDermot from the third ward, were admitted to seats in the councils of the county. In this year the equalized valuation of property, gave the city of Bay City \$633,000 and the townships \$717,000, a total of \$1,350,000. The war of the rebellion had, at this time, shown its influence in giving a fictitious value to property, and, while the assessments had been made as low as was possible, in order to avoid an undue apportionment to Bay County of its proportion of the expenses of the State, as determined by the State Board of Equalization, it is unquestionable that, in the view of the Supervisors of Bay County, the real estate of the county was worth, in market, seven times the amount of the valuation, or \$9,-550,000. In considering the valuation of 1876, after a financial revulsion and depression of three years duration, in which a great shrinkage in ideas of value has taken place, this fact will become worthy of notice.

In 1867, by act of the Legislature, the township of Beaver was organized out of the territory of Williams, and Levi Willard was added to the Board of Supervisors. In January, 1868, by act of the Board of Supervisors, the township of Kawkawlin was organized out of the territory of Bangor, and Alexander Beard was ad-

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mitted to the board, as its first representative. In 1869, the Legislature took another slice from Bangor, and the new township of Monitor sent Supervisor William H. Needham as its first representative. In 1870 Arenac, by order of the Board of Supervisors, gave the township of Au Gres, which sent W. R. Bates (subsequently county representative in the Legislature) to represent her. The census of this year gave the population of the county at 15,900. In the same year Arenac and Beaver contribu-

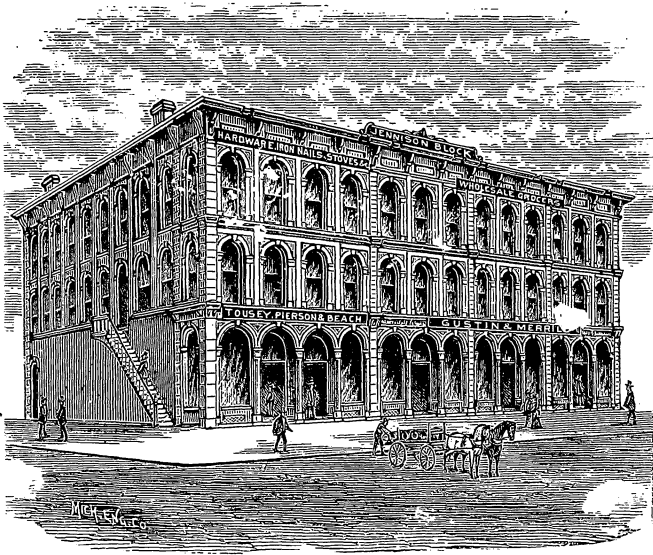


Hon. James Shearer's Residence.

ted territory to form the township of Clayton, whose first representative was William Smith. In 1873 a division of Portsmouth was decided upon, and Henry F. Shuler was duly accredited as the supervisor of the new town of Merritt. In 1873 the towns of Pinconning, Standish, and Deep River were organized by act of the Legislature, and Supervisors Joseph U. Meech, of Pinconning, Menzo R. Havens, of Standish, and John Bullock, of Deep River, became members of the Board of Supervisors. In 1874 the townships of Mason and Moffat were

organized by the board, the former sending Henry M. Smith, and the latter Alvin N. Culver, as their first representatives. The township of Frazer was organized, by act of the Legislature, in 1875, and William Michie became its first representative. The charter of Bay City having been amended in 1867, by the addition of two wards, the fourth ward sent John O. Woolson, and the fifth ward sent William Gordon as their first representatives. The boundaries of the city being again enlarged in 1873, by the addition of what had been known as the village of Portsmouth, the sixth and seventh wards of the city became entitled to representation, and the former sent George Lewis, the latter Charles Stevens, as their representatives. The amended city charter of 1867, giving an increased representation to the city upon the county board, City Recorder N. Whittemore and City Controller Robert McKinney became members of the county legislature, and the city representation was again increased in 1875, by the addition of City Attorney Winsor Scofield, and City Treasurer Charles S. Braddock to that body. The Board of Supervisors of Bay County therefore, in 1876, has increased to twenty-eight members, representing seventeen townships, and one city, whose aggregate population has increased from 3,164, in 1860, to 24,832, in 1874, the date of the last authentic census, which figures may, no doubt, at this date, be increased by at least 6,000, making a population in 1876, for the entire county, of 30,000 souls. The development of the county since its organization has been largely agricultural, although no data exists by which its progress in this direction can be even approximately given with any degree of correctness. The manufacturing interests of the county embrace, in 1876, fifty-four saw and shingle mills, of an average yearly capacity of four hundred million feet production; ten

planing mills; one tub and pail factory; one oar factory; one lock factory; four foundries and machine shops; and thirty salt blocks, mostly connected with the saw mills, and manufacturing salt by steam from the same, with a yearly capacity of 600,000 barrels of salt; a large number of cooper shops, for supplying barrels for the salt; two ship yards, and a variety of other industries, contingent upon the developments above enumerated.



Jennison Block.

Coal has been discovered in the townships of Deep River, Standish and Pinconning, and a shaft is being sunk at the former place to test its quality and value. In addition to the coal interests at Deep River, a shaft has been sunk on the flats of the Rifle river, by the Eureka Coal Co., which has taken out a few tons of coal from a vein of nine feet depth, at a point twenty feet from the surface, and have prospected to a further depth of fifty feet, passing through a vein of eleven feet in thickness, an analy-

sis of which, shows it to be of a superior quality of cannel coal. This company has, for the present, suspended operations, on account of the stringency of the times.

Plaster or gypsum is known to exist in large quantities in town twenty, north, township of Au Gres, but no endeavor has yet been made to develop it. The extent of the manufactured products in timber, lumber and salt will be found in tabulated statistics in another part of this work.

The territory of Bay County comprises all that portion of the peninsula, lying between, and including towns thirteen north and twenty north, or the length of eight townships, its breadth being the five townships included between ranges three and seven east. The county forms a part of the Eighth Congressional district, the Twenty-fourth Senatorial district, the Eighteenth Judicial district, and by the last apportionment, has become entitled to two representatives in the State Legislature. The value of property, real and personal, in the county, as equalized by the Board of Supervisors at the June session, 1876, is \$3,186,768, representing an actual market value of probably \$19,000,000, and the bonded indebtedness of the county at this time is \$45,199.88, the last of which is payable in 1888. The amount of taxes for State and County purposes authorized to be levied in 1875 was \$70,540, of which \$38,546 was apportioned to Bay City.

UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES.

The principal unincorporated villages of the county, are as follows: Salzburg, Pine River, Standish, Deep River, Kawkawlin, Sterling, Culver, Skinner, Pinconning, Saganin and Essexville. These are all prosperous centres of growth and enterprise, having postoffice facilities, and in many cases, excellent school buildings in con-

nection with the township school organizations, the system throughout the county being in a most excellent condition of advancement. In nearly all of the villages named, are to be found church organizations, several of them boasting comfortable and commodious houses of worship.



Munger Block.

The agricultural interests of the county, are each year being more fully developed, giving promise in the future of placing Bay county in an enviable position in competition with the hitherto more highly esteemed agricultural counties of the State, the quality of her soil being demonstrated already, as above the average. In fact, as the agricultural interests are yearly developing, it becomes a matter of no small surprise, even to the old citizens of the county, to find that Bay County is susceptible, with comparatively little effort, of taking a forward position as a producing section, and each year is adding to its development.

COUNTY FARM.

In the year 1866, the Board of Supervisors purchased a tract of Prairie land on the east side of the Saginaw River, near the Bay, comprising about 120 acres, upon which, suitable buildings have been erected, including a hospital, and retreat for mild cases of insanity, and the grounds have been thoroughly ditched, drained, and cultivated to a point relieving the county of a large proportion of the expense attending the care of the few paupers, who make claim as charges upon the County. The present value of the County farm property is about \$7,500.

PIONEERS OF THE COUNTY.

The first saw mill was erected in Bay County in the years 1836-7 by Judge Albert Miller, B. R. Hall and Cromwell Barney, at Portsmouth, now 7th Ward of the city. This was soon followed by mills erected by James Fraser, Hopkins and Pomeroy, Henry Raymond and James Watson, Elijah Stanton, Judge Albert Miller, B. F. Partridge and John C. Baughman, Thomas Whitney & Co., John Drake and Moon & Vose, in the order named. Since the erection of these pioneer establishments, others have succeeded so rapidly, that the number is too great for specification in detail, within the limits of this work.

The first mercantile establishment was opened by Benjamin F. Pierce in 1840, he finding a competitor soon after in Frederick W. Backus.

The first known white settler of the county was Jacob Graverot, a German from Albany, N. Y., who married the daughter of Kish-kau-ko, the chief of the Saginaw band of Chippewa Indians.

The first white child born within the present limits of the county, was Elizaketh, daughter of Cromwell Barney.

The lady still resides in the city, and is the wife of our respected fellow-citizen Albert G. Sinclair.

THE BOOMS.

At the mouth of the Kawkawlin, Rifle and Au Gres rivers, booms have been constructed by stock companies, who assume the care and charge of all timber and logs, cut upon the lands contiguous to such streams, sorting out the timber according to marks placed upon each piece by the owners thereof, and delivering the same in rafts to the steam tugs employed to tow the same across the lake to the river mills, where the timber is to be manufactured. The capital invested in these booms aggregates probably \$75,000.



Cranage Block.

BRIDGES.

Previous to 1866, the only means of transit across the Saginaw River was by row boats or rope ferry, until the latter was, in 1863, superseded by a steam flat boat,

which was in time superseded, in 1866, by the bridge between the foot of Third street, Bay City, and Midland street in Wenona, elsewhere mentioned as recently rebuilt of iron. In 1876 a second bridge was constructed from the foot of Twenty-third street to Salzburg, and in 1873 the Michigan Central R. R. Co. erected a solid frame bridge across the river at a point about fifteen hundred feet above the Third street bridge. This latter is used exclusively for railroad purposes, the former for general travel.

BAY COUNTY OFFICIALS IN 1876.

The present representatives of the interests of Bay County are as follows :

Member of Congress—Nathan B. Bradley.

State Senator—Townsend North, of Vassar.

Representative—Andrew Walton.

Judge of Circuit Court—Sandford M. Green.

County Clerk—Henry A. Braddock.

County Treasurer—Will H. Fennell.

County Register—Harvey M. Hemstreet.

Prosecuting Attorney—Graeme M. Wilson.

Judge of Probate—John W. McMath.

Sheriff—Martin W. Brock.

The townships and city are represented upon the Board of Supervisors, as follows :

Arenac—William H. Fleming.

Au Gres—Elbridge W. Oakes.

Bangor—Frederick W. Bradfield.

Bay City—1st Ward, Robert J. Campbell.

“ 2nd “ Leman L. Culver.

“ 3rd “ Christopher McDowell.

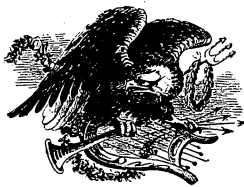
“ 4th “ Thomas Carney, Jr.

“ 5th “ Richard Padley.

“ 6th “ Leondras M. Miller.

“ 7th “ Ansel W. Watrous.

Recorder—Isaac G. Worden.
Controller—Patrick J. Perrott.
Treasurer—Charles S. Braddock.
City Attorney—Winsor Scofield.
Beaver—John Farquharson.
Clayton—Anthony Jackson.
Deep River—John Bullock.
Hampton—Nathan Knight.
Kawkawlin—Jeremiah McCuddy.
Merritt—Belthasar Shoevel.
Monitor—William Gaffney.
Pinconning—Edward B. Knight,
Portsmouth—Benjamin F. Partridge.
Standish—Peter M. Angus.
Williams—Ira Swart.
Mason—Henry M. Smith.
Moffatt—Alvin N. Culver.
Frazer—William Mitchie.



BAY CITY.

ITS LOCATION AND ADVANTAGES.—A SKETCH OF ITS
RISE AND PROGRESS.

BAY CITY, located at the mouth of the Saginaw river, five miles from the Bay of the same name, was incorporated a village in the year 1859, by act of the legislature of that year.

The territory comprising the village, was situated in the township of Hampton. Its advantages as a commercial point, were embraced in the excellent adaptation for the manufacture of lumber, in which Bay County and its surrounding neighborhood did, and still do most richly abound. This adaptation consisted of a river front suitable for the erection of saw mills, and booms for holding the stock to be sawn, while at the same time convenient for receiving the logs floated from the streams tributary to the Saginaw river, the navigable waters of the river enabling the shipment of the manufactured product, to all points watered by the great lakes. At the date of the incorporation of the village, several saw mills had already been established on the river, within, and contiguous to the territory comprised within its limits.

The population of the village, at the date of its incorporation was about 700 souls, the United States census of 1860, showing a population in the entire of Bay County of only 1,519. This population was engaged principally in lumbering, and fishing, this latter industry comprising a no mean proportion of the exports from the village, while the excellent adaptation of the soil of the County to agricultural purposes, had not yet attracted very general attention or interest. In this year, the attention of capitalists and the community in general, was called to the existence of vast reservoirs of salt in the vicinity, and a salt well was put down within the limits of the new village, as an experiment, the unbounded success of which, speedily led to the development of interests which in 1876, have led to the production within the limits of Bay City, of not far from 400,000 barrels of salt per year. The lumber and salt interests of the village in their rapid development, called for a growth and increase in wealth and population, which may be set down as almost unprecedented in the annals of the nation. The first election under the village charter, occurred on the 2nd day of May, A. D., 1859, at Birney hall on Water street, Calvin C. C. Chillson, and Doctor Lewis Fuchsins, being judges of the polls, with Albert Wedthoff, clerk of the Board. At this election, one hundred and fifty-five votes were cast for the office of President, Curtis Munger being elected by 92 votes, against 63 cast for George Lord, and J. S. Barclay. Charles Atwood was elected to fill the office of Recorder, John F. Cottrell, as Treasurer, Albert Miller, James J. McCormick, Henry W. Jennison, Israel Catlin, Henry M. Bradley, and Harmon A. Chamberlain, Trustees. The first meeting of the Council was held in a room over

the store of Jennison Brothers, at the foot of 5th street on May 6th, 1859. At a meeting of the Board on the 23rd of May, John A. Weed was appointed Village Marshall, Henry M. Bradley, Street Commissioner, and Algernon S. Munger, and William Daglish, Assessors. Among the first acts of the village trustees, was the ordering of sidewalks on Washington street, from 1st to 10th street, and the opening of Jefferson and Madison Streets, north of Center street. At a meeting held May 30th, both of the gentlemen who had been appointed village Assessors having declined to act, A. G. Sinclair, and Charles D. Fisher, were appointed; Mr. Sinclair declining, Mr. Henry Raymond was appointed in his place June 6th. At a meeting June 3rd, the salary of the village Attorney, was fixed at \$75.00 per year, and James Birney was appointed as the legal adviser of the Board. On June 27th, a general tax for village purposes of \$1,047.00, and a highway tax of one-half of one per cent. was certified to the assessors. On December 19th, 1859, a committee on Fire Department was instituted, consisting of Israel Catlin, H. M. Bradley, and H. A. Chamberlain. who on January 4th, 1860, were instructed "to rent a sufficient amount of leather hose to use until spring, and to procure a triangle for the use of the hose house." This seems to have been the germ whence sprang our present efficient fire department, a small hand fire engine, named "Tiger," afterwards "Peninsula," (John McEwan being captain of the company) and which still remains the property of the city, constituting the entire of the equipment. In April 1861, it was thought that more efficiency was requisite, and W. L. Fay was duly commissioned to procure an efficient engine, and purchased a third-class machine

at Chicago. This engine was known as "Red Rover," and H. M. Bradley was appointed Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, and organized the department in an efficient manner. There was but little use for the fire department, until the 12th of July 1863, when a fire broke out on the south side of Centre street, between Water and Saginaw streets, sweeping both sides of Water street for two blocks, involving in its destructive course the "Red Rover" engine and its engine house, leaving the village not only in ashes and in mourning, but as well, in danger of greater conflagrations. An attempt was now made, by Councilman Louis Bloedon, to establish fire limits, but without success. On August 10th the bonds of the village, to the extent of \$6,000, were ordered by the Council, for the procuring of more apparatus, and a "sufficient amount" was ordered to be expended in a steam fire engine (which, however, was not done for several years), with not to exceed \$500, to repair or rebuild the "Red Rover" engine; and, at the same meeting, the President and Recorder were instructed to procure a site for an engine house. This committee purchased a lot on Saginaw street, at the price of \$475.00. An endeavor was made to organize a hook and ladder company, but failed, as have all similar efforts to this date. In October of this year the Council purchased two hand engines from the city of Rochester, N. Y., with hose carts and other apparatus. These engines were designated as "Red Rover" No. 1 and "Protection" No. 2. These engines cost the village \$1,500, and were subsequently sold by the city, for nearly the same price. On the 14th of December, 1864, an ordinance was adopted granting a charter to the Bay City and Portsmouth Street Railway Company, the track of which, from Third street in Bay City to south Centre street in Portsmouth, was laid during the following year. In February, 1865, the village board

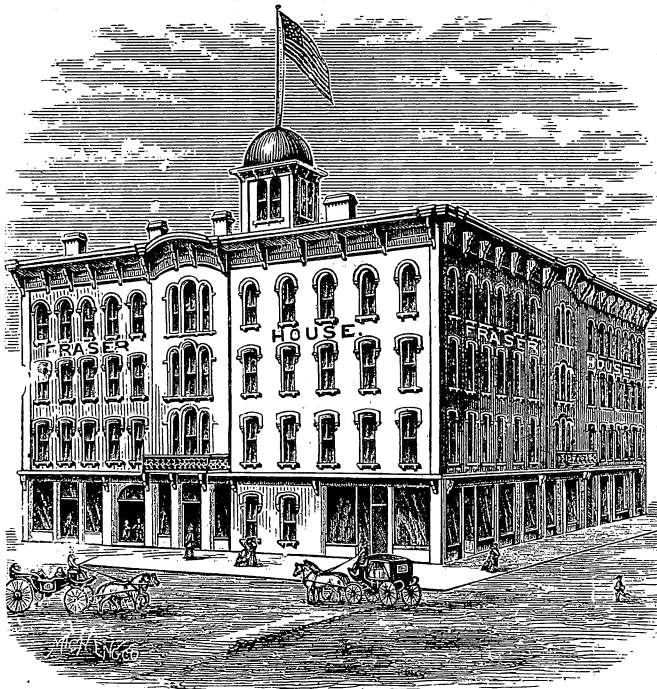
granted a charter to the Bay City Gas Light Company, which soon entered upon the erection and completion of its works.

A CHARTERED CITY.

The next point of public interest in the history of Bay City, centers in its organization by act of the Legislature as a chartered city, which was accomplished in the spring of 1865, the city being divided into three wards. A charter election was held on the first Monday of April, and the following officers elected. Mayor, Nathan B. Bradley (Mr. Bradley was elected as Representative to Congress in 1872, serving two terms, or until the election of 1876 shall terminate his term of office); Recorder, William T. Kennedy, Jr.; Treasurer, Ernest Frank. The board of aldermen consisted of the following named citizens: 1st ward, George W. Hotchkiss and Jerome B. Sweet; 2nd ward, Alexander M. Johnson and Jeffrey R. Thomas; 3rd ward, James Watson and Herschel H. Hatch. On April 11th the bonds of the Treasurer were fixed at \$3,000. Thomas Carney, Sr., was elected Street Commissioner, Theophilus C. Grier was elected City Attorney, C. Feige, City Marshall, Andrew Huggins, City Surveyor. The new Council now rapidly got themselves into working order, but no event of moment is found on the records, until Sept. 12th, when, in accordance with the decision of the citizens expressed at a special election, a Silsby steam fire engine was ordered to be purchased, which was done—the steamer being accepted by resolution, adopted Nov. 18th, 1865. On Sept. 30th the Council determined that the sum of \$4,997.47 would be needed for city purposes for the ensuing year. The valuation of city property on the assessment roll of this, the first year of the city organization, was \$633,000.

The question of sewerage, about this time, was warmly agitated, resulting two years later, in the laying of a

box sewer on Centre street, from Washington to Johnson, and from Washington to Fifth, and thence to the river. In this year fences were constructed around the parks of the city, and several hundred dollars expended for trees, grading, etc.



Fraser House.

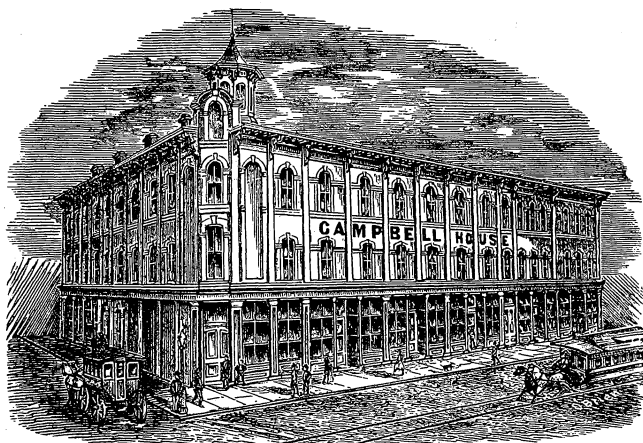
During this year the Fraser House, being the third brick building in the city, was erected on the corner of Water and Centre streets, and the city began to assume a metropolitan aspect. The first brick building had been erected by Thomas Watkins, in 1862, on the corner of Washington and Centre streets; the second by James Fraser, on Water street, between Third and Fourth streets. The receipts of the city during its first fiscal year from all sources were \$27,081.97; the expenditures, \$26,867.65; leaving a balance on hand at the end of the

year of \$214.72. During this season strong efforts were put forth in the Council to establish fire limits, but without success, until in the month of October, a large fire having swept both sides of Water street from Centre to Fifth streets, the Council established fire limits, and from that time the city has grown with rapidity, and in a substantial manner. Provisions for the suppression of vice and disorder were early adopted by the Council, the good effects of which remain to this day.

In May, 1867, the Council decided upon a system of paving, and Water street, from Third to Sixth street, and Centre street, from Water to Saginaw street, comprising the business portion of the city, were laid with Nicholson pavement ; at a later date the work on Centre street has been continued with the Wyckoff system of wooden blocks, to Johnson street. Fifth street has been paved to Jefferson, Third street to Johnson, and Saginaw street from First to Sixth street, with the same blocks, making fully three miles of paving now in use in the city. The city has also purchased the right to use the Wyckoff device during the life time of the patent. In 1868 permission was given to the East Saginaw & Bay City Railway Company to lay its track through the city in the center of Jefferson street, and from the completion and operation of said railroad, giving conveniences of communication with the outside world, may be said to date the growth and importance of the city. In 1870-1 the line of the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad was extended to a point opposite the city, and the benefits and advantages thereby accruing to the city speedily became manifest. In this year the census of the United States showed the population of the city to be 7,064 ; while the assessed valuation of taxable property was \$1,166,475.

In the year 1871 it became evident that with the rapid growth of the city, a system of water works must be speedily inaugurated. A Board of Water Commission-

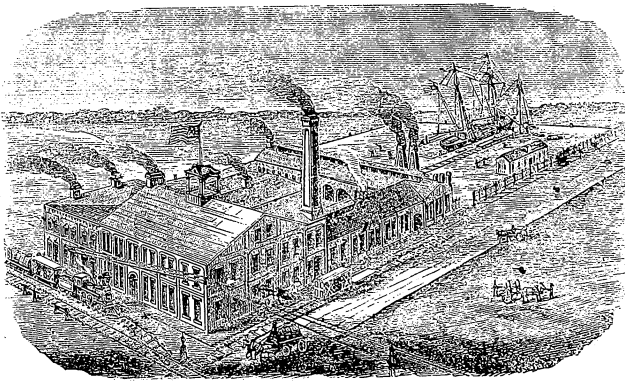
ers was provided for, on August 28th, to carry out the intention of the citizens as expressed at a special election, July 14th, at which time \$118,000 was voted as the beginning of a fund for the purpose of supplying the city with water from the Saginaw Bay. The first members of the Board of Water Commissioners were: James Shearer (President), Michael Daley, William Westover, John McDowell and Henry M. Bradley. Erastus L. Dunbar was appointed superintendent and engineer of construction, and the work was soon got under way. The



Campbell House.

Board of Water Commissioners decided to adopt the Holly system of direct pumping through the mains to the consumer. A factory having been put in operation in the city for the manufacture of wooden water pipe, there has been laid to this date 78,703 feet of the same, together with 16,377 feet of iron pipe; making a total of 18 miles and forty feet, with 253 stop valves and 127 double discharge hydrants, connected with the street mains. The water supply is brought from Saginaw bay, at a point four and a half miles from the pumping machinery, by means of a wooden stave conduit of 30 inches diameter. The total construction account of the entire

system to this date has been \$351,088.22, the money for which has been raised upon the bonds of the city, having from fifteen to forty years to run from their date, with interest at 8 per cent. per annum. These bonds have been readily negotiated, and in the expenditure of the money it is worthy of note, that no suspicion has ever been excited, that a single penny of the money has been misappropriated or used improperly. Several fires which have in their inception promised to be fruitful of disaster, have been speedily checked, and the general sentiment of the citizens is congratulatory, upon the completion and successful management of the work.



Industrial Works.

GENERAL INTERESTS.

The medical fraternity of the city is well represented by practitioners of all schools, but the fact that the increased demand for cemetery lots has not been at all commensurate with the growth of the population, warrants us in saying that but few localities can boast a greater immunity from disease than can the denizens of this favored city.

The bridge which connects Bay City with the village of Wenona, on the opposite bank of the river, was a wooden structure, built in 1865 6, at a cost of \$28,000. The

bridge has been rebuilt during the past winter and spring, a handsome iron structure upon pile foundations, replacing the original structure.

THE ORIGINAL VILLAGE PLAT.

The village of Bay City was laid out in 1837 by the Saginaw Bay Co., and was called the village of Lower Saginaw. Its boundaries were the Prairie road (now Woodside avenue) on the north ; a line 400 feet south of Tenth street on the south ; Van Buren street on the east, and the Saginaw River on the west. The original boundaries have been enlarged, so that the city comprises at this time over six times more territory, and extends along the river bank for a length of six miles, with a depth easterly averaging one and a half miles. The original Saginaw Bay Co. was composed of Governor Stephen T. Mason, Frederick H. Stevens, A. McReynolds, Henry Hallock, John Hulbert, Henry R. Sawyer, Electus Backus, Henry R. Schoolcraft, James Fraser, and Phineas Davis. Doct. D. H. Fitzhugh, who is still at times seen upon our streets, at an early day became by purchase, the possessor of a large portion of the plats, some of which he still retains, each year adding more than the original cost of the whole, to the balance still remaining in his hands. The original stock of the company was divided into 240 shares, representing the number of acres embraced in the village plat, one acre to each share.

TRAVELING FACILITIES.

The city is connected with the outside world by the Flint and Pere Marquette R. R. to Detroit, built in 1867, as also by the Detroit and Bay City branch of the Michigan Central R. R., which went into operation in 1871. By means of the Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw branch of the Michigan Central, built in 1869-70, communication is had with the State capital, Jackson and the south,

and with Chicago in the west, while the same road to the north is opening up a tributary country to the trade of the county, and, ere many years, or when completed to the Straits of Mackinaw, the government park on the island of Mackinaw, and the immense trade of the Lake Superior mineral productions, by means of the Mackinaw and Marquette R. R., recently placed under contract by the State, will be almost at the threshold of the city, contributing to her wealth and advancement.

Steamboat routes are maintained daily as follows : With East Saginaw by two boats, making three trips each. With the north-west shore to the towns of Tawas, Au Sable and Alpena, by a daily line of boats each way. With Goderich, Canada, Cleveland and Toledo by two lines of propellers carrying passengers and freight. With Sebawaing and the east shore of the bay by two lines of small propellers, and with Pine and Rifle River on the west shore, by a line of small propellers.

RELIGIOUS INTERESTS.

The spiritual interests of Bay City are watched over by seventeen churches of the following denominations, organized in the order named :

1st Methodist Episcopal, 2nd ward, organized 1845.

St. Joseph's R. C. (French) 2nd ward, organized 1852.

German Bethel, Lutheran. (Mich. Synod) 4th ward, organized 1852.

1st Presbyterian, 3rd ward, organized 1856.

Protestant Episcopal, 3rd ward, organized 1854.

Methodist Episcopal, 6th ward, organized 1858.

Baptist, 6th ward, organized 1858.

1st Baptist, 3rd ward, organized 1860.

Universalist, 3rd ward, organized 1864.

St. James' R. C. (English) 4th ward, organized 1868.

Presbyterian, Memorial Chapel, 6th ward, organized 1871.

Anshei Chesed (Hebrew congregation) 2nd ward, organized 1872.

Sisters of Charity, R. C., (Educational) 4th ward, organized 1873.



First Baptist Church.

St. Stanislaus Kots-ka, R. C., (Polish) 5th ward, organized 1874.

Congregational, 3rd ward, organized 1875.

St. Bonifazius, R. C., (German) 3rd ward, organized 1875.

Each of these congregations (except the Hebrews) has a comfortable and commodious church building, some of which may properly be called elegant, the Baptist church on Centre street [see cut] being a brick structure costing \$80,000. Each of the denominations maintain Sabbath

schools, with excellent libraries, and each society is in a flourishing condition. The total value of church property in the city is not far from \$250,000.

CEMETERIES.

The city cannot at this date boast of any thing elaborate, in the way of providing appropriate grounds for the reception of the mortal remains of its citizens, when life's fitful fever shall be over-past. The first Cemetery of the older settlers was situated in what is now the 4th ward, between 11th and 12th streets, on Saginaw and Washington streets; this was abandoned finally in 1860, and an enclosure of about five acres, situated in the 4th ward, at the east end of 12th street, belonging to James Birney, Esq., and known as "Pine Ridge Cemetery," has been principally used since that time. Each year evidences more care in its adornment, and it will, no doubt in time, assume that beauty which should ever mark the last resting place of the loved ones gone before; although the time cannot be far distant, when a more extensive plat, will be required commensurate with the growth and extent of the rapidly increasing city.

On the opposite side of the road, now known as the Tuscola Plank Road, Mr. E. Eickmeyer an enterprising German citizen, has laid out a plat of about the same size, which is slowly growing in public favor, and ere many years will be at least the equal, if not the superior of Pine Ridge in beauty of adornment. The Hebrews of the city, have a small Cemetery plat to the east of, and adjoining Pine Ridge, which will no doubt, in time become a portion of the same enclosure. The St. Patricks (Catholic) Cemetery comprising five acres of ground, lies a quarter of a mile east of this place, and is now well fenced, and tastefully arranged. These grounds which but a few years since were more than a mile removed from the city limits, are now nearly all within the limits of the city,

which is fast encroaching upon them, necessitating no doubt, in the not far distant future, the selection of grounds more remote from proximity to the crowded population of a prosperous city.

THE PRESS.

The first newspaper published in the city, was known as the Bay City "Press," and was established by Perry Joslin, and edited by James Birney, at the present time United States Minister Resident, at the Hague. It commenced in 1856, and lived but a few weeks.

In 1859 Mr. William Bryce commenced the publication of the "Press and Times," which was discontinued in 1864, to be succeeded in the same year by the Bay City "Journal," Mr. John Culbert, editor, which in 1871, became a daily as well as a weekly publication, under the editorial management and proprietorship of Robert L. Warren, being discontinued in February, 1873, to be



again reissued by the Hon. James Birney, as the daily and weekly Chronicle, ceasing as a daily in 1875; the weekly Chronicle still continuing at this time under the charge and proprietorship of Mr. Arthur M. Birney. The paper has always been Republican in politics.

In 1864, Mr. William T. Kennedy, commenced the issue of a weekly newspaper in the interest of the Democracy, which was suspended in 1870.

The Bay City Tribune was instituted as an evening daily and weekly paper independent in politics, in 1873, by a company composed of John Culbert, Thomas K. Harding, Edward Krœncke and Griffin Lewis, who associated themselves for the purpose of doing a general jobbing, newspaper and book-binding business. The company was subsequently dissolved, Mr. Henry S. Dow becoming the purchaser of the paper. The weekly issue was suspended in 1875, the daily continuing, and being at this time without competitor in the daily field. Mr. Henry S. Dow, was its first Editor, Mr. Geo. K. Shaw being its present Manager and Editor.

The Lumberman's Gazette a weekly journal devoted to the interests of the vast Lumber and Salt resources of the valley, and nation, was established in 1872, by Henry S. Dow, and is yet gaining ground in its field of usefulness, under the proprietorship of Edwin T. Bennett.

The Saginaw Valley Growler, published by Daniel R. Curry, was established in 1869, and still continues a weekly publication.

The Michigan Odd Fellow in the interest of the I. O. O. F., was established by Doctor Joseph Hooper, Editor, Edward Newkirk and Charles C. Gustin in 1874, and is an influential representative of the tenets of the Order.

THE POST OFFICE.

Judge Albert Miller was the first post master of Portsmouth, and Thomas Rogers of Lower Saginaw, both localities being now within the limits of Bay City, receiving their commissions, the former in 1837, the latter in 1840, at which time a semi-occasional mail transported on the back of a man or beast, was all that was required to accommodate a sparse population. The present incumbent of the Post Office of Bay City, is Theodore C. Phillips, and the business of the office aggregates \$150,000 per year. The average number

of letters sent and received daily, is 2,200, or 800,000 per year, weighing over three tons, while the weight of all mail matter received and sent from the office, aggregates a half ton per day, or one hundred and eighty tons per year, while offices are maintained in the 7th ward of the city, and at Wenona, Salzburg, Banks and Essexville, all within a radius of three miles from the Bay City office, and all absolutely necessary for the convenience of a teeming population.

• BANKING.

The first banking institution was established in the village in the year 1863, by Chauncey W. Gibson, whose cash capital is stated variously at from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The name adopted was that of Bay Bank, which it retained until reorganized by Mr. Gibson and others as the First National Bank, with a capital of \$50,000, receiving its certificate of organization January 15th, 1864. The bank capital has from time to time been increased, until it now does business with a capital of \$400,000—James Shearer, president; B. E. Warren, cashier and manager.

The State Bank was organized under the State laws, in November, 1869, and is now doing business on a capital of \$150,000—Alonzo Chesbrong, president, Orrin Bump, cashier and manager.

The Bay City Bank was organized under the State laws, and began business in 1869, with a capital of \$100,000—George Lewis, president; George H. Young, cashier. This institution also combines the advantages of, and includes a savings department, known as the Bay City Savings Bank.

The Second National Bank commenced business in May, 1874, with a capital of \$100,000, and still remains under the management of William Westover, president, and Wheeler L. Plum, cashier. The banking capital of the city at this time is \$750,000, without taking into account the heavy surplus accumulated by each.

SECRET SOCIETIES

The secret and civil societies of the city and county comprise the following organizations:

MASONIC.

Bay City Lodge, No. 129, F. & A. M.
Joppa Lodge, No. 315, F. & A. M.
Portsmouth Lodge, No. 190, F. & A. M.
Blanchard Chapter, No. 59, Royal Arch.
Bay City Commandry, No. 26, Knights Templar.
Wenona Lodge, No. —, F. & A. M.

These societies comprise at this time a combined membership of about 600.

ODD FELLOWSHIP.

Bay Lodge, No. 104, I. O. O. F.
Valley Lodge, No. 189, I. O. O. F.
Grace Lodge, No. 19, D. R., I. O. O. F.
Excelsior Lodge, No. 60, D. R., I. O. O. F.
Humbolt Lodge (German), No. 154, I. O. O. F.
Kanonda Encampment, No. 36, I. O. O. F.
Eden Lodge, No. 260, I. O. O. F.
Wenona Lodge, No. 221, I. O. O. F.
Essexville Lodge, No. 225, I. O. O. F.
Kawkawlin Lodge, No. 145, I. O. O. F.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

Portsmouth Lodge, I. O. G. T., No. 109.
Bay City Lodge, I. O. G. T., No. 104.

MILITARY.

Co. D (Peninsular) 3rd Regiment Michigan State Troops.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Teutonia, Musical, organized 1867.
Harmonia, Musical, organized in 1874.
Arbeiter Verrein, Benevolent.
Knights of Pythias, organized July, 1875.
I. O. O. Bnai Brith, organized 1872.
Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society, organized 1873.
Bay County Bar Association.
Bay City Typographical Association.
St Andrew's Society.

St. Patrick's Society.
Bay County Medical Society.
Homeopathic Medical Society.
Lafayette Temperance Society.
German Workingmen's Society.
St. James R. C. Total Abstinence Society.
St. Joseph R. C. Benevolent Society.
Bay County Agricultural Society.
St. Stanislaus Kotska (Polish) Society.

THE SCHOOLS OF BAY CITY.

The first school taught in Bay City, by Miss ———, Robinson (on a salary of \$1.50 per week and "boarding round") was opened in the year 1844 in a school building costing \$200, erected near the north end of Washington street, which was made to do service as a school house, Church and public building.

In 1854 a new building was erected on Adams street, between 4th and 5th streets, whose accommodations calculated for the children of the entire township, provided for the instruction of about 160. This building enlarged and improved, now affords accommodation for 500 pupils, and is but one of the at present extended and useful system of school buildings in the city, consisting as they do, of a brick two story building in the 1st ward, a two story frame building in the 2nd ward, an elegant and costly High School building in the 3rd ward, two, two story wooden structures in the 5th ward; a new and elegant two story brick building in the 6th ward, and another in the 7th ward, the valuation of all the school property of the city being \$135,000. The Board of Education of Bay City, was incorporated by the legislature in 1867.

The High school building having been decided upon and commenced in 1866, was completed ready for occupancy in 1868. At that date the site selected, was considered by a majority of the citizens as too remote from



High School.

the probable center of population to be advantageous, but already has the growth of the city, not only reached, but extended far beyond it, while the city lines have been located a full mile to the east of it, and the building has for several years been fully occupied, with an ever increasing demand upon its accommodations, while the system of graded schools which was adopted in 1870, is showing good results in the constantly enlarging class of graduates, which each year bids farewell to its halls, fitted to undertake a collegiate course, or to cope with the duties of commercial life. As the efficiency of our public school system, was first made manifest under the administration of Prof. D. C. Scoville, it is but just to name that gentleman as the father of its development. The present school census embraces 4,400 scholars, of which number 2,700, are

in attendance at the public schools, a goodly proportion of the balance being in attendance at the various private schools of the city, the scholars in the public schools being taught in the various grades by 37 teachers. The expenditures for the schools of Bay City, for the fiscal year ending September 3rd, 1866, were \$3,114.89. while the estimates for the period from September 3rd, 1876 to September 3rd, 1877, as certified to the common council are, \$26,000; being \$16,750 less than the estimates for 1875.

The present organization of the school system of the city is composed as follows:

BOARD OF EDUCATION, 1876.

President, Andrew Walton.

Clerk, Isaac G. Worden.

1st ward, Andrew Walton, George H. Shearer.

2nd " Samuel G. M. Gates, Peter S. Heisordt.

3rd " Eldridge M. Fowler, Oscar Forsyth.

4th " Thomas Kelley, Thomas Carney, Jr.

5th " Richard Padley, Wm. W. Hargrave.

6th " John D. Lewis, Duncan McGregor.

7th " Alexander Logan, Charles S. Braddock.

Superintendent Public Schools, Ira W. Morley.

Principal of High School John W. Sleppy.

" 1st ward, Miss Juliette Baker.

" 2nd " Frederick W. Lankenau.

" 5th " Mrs. Julia C. Hawkesworth.

" 6th " Robert McLaughlin.

" 7th " Mrs. L. J. Whitney.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The public buildings of Bay City are justly her pride. No city of equal age can point to a greater number of first-class buildings erected within an equal length of time. At the date of her incorporation as a village in 1859, with but a sparse population of barely 700, it may well be imagined that the character of the buildings was in keeping with the poverty of the people. The venture of Thomas W. Watkins, who in 1863 completed the

main part of the building, named in the cut as the residence of the Hon. James Shearer, which was by no means as extended or ornamental in its first conception as it has since become, was looked upon as a wild scheme, which would swamp the "old bachelor lumber inspector." Mr Watkins, however, lived to see several other piles of brick buildings established, and at his death, in 1868, knew that his venture had not only been a well advised one, but that it was a good legacy for his wife and only child. Mr. James Fraser erected the second brick building in the city, on Water street, between Third and Fourth streets, and was soon followed by Mr. Hiram Cooper, who built a small two story store on Water between Centre and Sixth streets. Mr. Fraser commenced the erection of the hotel which bears his name, in the year 1864, and it is to-day the pride of our citizens and the equal of any hotel in the State.

The "big fire" in 1865, leading to the establishment of fire limits, was the first incentive to a more substantial style of building than had heretofore been thought necessary, and from this time the erection of brick blocks throughout the city, has kept pace with the increase of its population and the development of its interests. It is not the purpose of this work to describe in full all the beautiful buildings, or all the surroundings of Bay City and its inhabitants. We may, however, point to a number of cuts which, being obtainable on short notice, are well calculated to give to the reader an idea of the architecture of the more notable buildings of the city, which will evidence the public spirit of its inhabitants; these views we submit without further particularization, simply adding that the city contains a large number of elegant and costly private mansions, several of which have been erected at a cost of from \$10,000 to \$30,000. The wisdom of the founders of Bay City, is shown in its wide streets, laid out at right angles to each other, and in the provision which was made by them for the needs

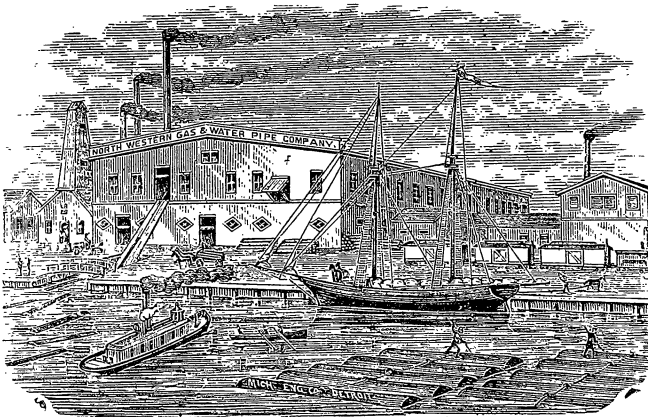
of a growing city, in providing in the 1st and 3rd wards small parks of three acres each, and in what is now the central or business portions of the city a smaller park, comprising an opening of 260 feet by 300 feet, which can never be encroached upon for the purpose of building, but will remain so long as the city endures, breathing places for a vast multitude of people who will bless the foresight and wisdom of those who provided for them in the laying out of the city. In front of the Court House a handsome fountain throws its spray into the heated atmosphere of a summer's day, while a smaller fountain adorns the park by its side, and as well one on the opposite side of the street in front of the jail. The streets of Bay City are yearly growing more beautiful, as the large numbers of elm, maple, horse-chestnut and other shade trees, approach more nearly a condition of usefulness and maturity. The extent of the shade tree culture, by her citizens, is a matter of much comment among strangers visiting her borders, and is an heirloom of inestimable value to posterity.

In the year 1873 Mr. William D. Fitzhugh donated to the city a tract of twenty acres of ground, situated about one mile east of the river, and between First and Centre streets, as a public park, and some labor in grading and fencing has been undertaken by the city. This will, no doubt, in a few years be a favorite resort for our citizens.

MANUFACTURES.

Bay City, while essentially a manufacturing town, cannot as yet boast so great a diversity of manufactures as would be desirable. Lumber and salt are her great staples, and the larger proportion of her endeavors culminate upon these two articles and their manipulation. Still she is making rapid strides in the direction of other industries, and when her forests shall fail will be prepared in the utilization of her vast resources in salt, nearly one million of barrels of which annually leave her docks or pass her doors as it leaves the adjoining county on its

way to a western or eastern market, to add such other industries as the exigencies of a growing nation may demand. The twenty-four saw mills within her limits have a sawing capacity of three hundred million feet of sawed lumber per year, two shingle mills, producing twelve million of sawed shingles, and seventeen salt blocks of a producing capacity of four hundred thousand barrels of salt per year, may well be esteemed no mean foundation on which to base the prosperity of a growing city. Supplementing these however, we may among the industrial developments of the city, name six planing



Northwestern Gas and Water Pipe Factory

mills which prepare the rough stock for immediate use, or shipment to the consumer ; one tub and pail factory, turning out a car load per day of finished work, and one manufactory of gas and water mains from the tree, this latter being a recent adaptation of wood to uses heretofore monopolized by iron, which is meeting with great favor wherever tried. There are also five foundries and machine shops, one of which has a paid up capital of \$100,000, three of the others vieing closely with it as to the ability to do, and the extent of work done, both in the manufacture of new or repair of old machinery; four boiler making establishments. for confining to utilization

the only reliable motive power which has yet availed to take the place of water, one lock manufactory, for the manufacture of a recently introduced and excellent device in automatic, safety or combination locks, one oar factory, and an immense number of blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, and artizans of every nature. There are two grist mills in the county, one being located within the limits of Bay City, the other at Wenona. These mills have heretofore depended largely for their supplies of grain upon importations from abroad, but for the past two years have been able to obtain from the farms of the county, not only sufficient for their needs, but a small amount for export. The development of the agricultural interests of the county, must inevitably soon place her in the list of export counties.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The present Fire Department of Bay City consists of the following organization :

OFFICERS.

Chief Engineer—Benjamin F. Ray.
1st Asst.-Engineer—John Fowler.
2nd Asst.-Engineer—Robert J. Campbell.

COMPANIES.

1st Ward Hose (single horse reel ; 1000 feet hose)—

Foreman—George Wanless.
Driver—Fred Hamlin.
Pipemen—Gotleib Wortz, Joseph Fraser, John Currant, Robert Watson, Patrick McCullough.

2nd Ward Hose (single horse reel ; 1000 feet hose)—

Foreman—Henry Woods
Driver—Cyrus McGregor.
Pipemen—Luther Tobias, Richard Woods, Richard Cuthbert, William Truesdale, Henry Wackerly.

4th Ward Hose (single horse reel ; 1000 feet hose)—

Foreman—Lawrence McHugh.

Driver—Edward Atkinson.

Pipemen—Matthew Ryan, George Trombly, William Madden, Nathan Laird, Silas Larkin.

7th Ward Hose (single horse reel ; 1000 feet hose)—

Foreman—Charles J. Rouech.

Driver—William Cherriman.

Pipemen—Leondas M. Miller, John Y. McKinney, Wm. H. Wilbur, Henry Stark, Daniel Buckman.

The department also have one hand engine and two steam fire engines, which are held without organizations, as a reserve in case of extremity ; and also hold a reserve of 2000 feet of hose. The force depends upon the street hydrants supplied by the water-works of the city for its power, and has repeatedly shown itself to be an efficient organization. The department is a paid one, the salaries being, to the Chief Engineer \$300 per year, to the Foremen and Pipemen each \$10 per month, and to the Drivers \$45 per month. The city is furnished with Pond's Patent Fire Alarm Telegraph system, there being now located and in operation fourteen public alarm boxes, beside those located at the offices of the Chief Engineer, Superintendent of Water Works, and Chief of Police.

POLICE.

The orderly character of the city may be inferred from the fact that it is watched over by a police force composed but of one Chief of Police or City Marshal, and nine patrolmen, the former receiving a compensation of \$1,200 per year, the latter \$60 each per month. The City Recorder acts as Police Justice, and has jurisdiction over all offences committed in violation of the ordinances of the city.

MILITARY.

The city is justly proud of Co. D, 3rd Regiment of State Troops, which under the cognomen of "Peninsulars," is a well drilled, handsomely uniformed body of 72 men, from the trades and professions, and has in its brief career, having been organized in 1874, already gained warm encomiums from other companies of the State, and from the State officials, for proficiency of drill and soldierly bearing. The company is under the command of Captain (recently elected Regimental Major) Frank H. Blackman.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR BAND.

The Knights Templar band was organized in 1873 by the secret order of that name, and at this time, in a neat uniform, and with excellent proficiency in music, does credit to the body which fosters it, and to the city at large.

KANONDA ENCAMPMENT BAND.

The Kanonda Encampment, I. O. O. F. have also fostered an excellent musical organization in the 7th Ward, which, in handsome uniform, fully shares in the favors bestowed upon the Knights Templar organization, both being at once the honor and pride of the city. This band was organized in 1874.

STATISTICAL.

The following table will exhibit the contrasts in population and manufactures, from the incorporation of the village of Bay City, and practical organization of Bay County in 1859, with several dates, ending with the present year, 1876 :

BAY CITY.

	1861.	1865.	1870.	1874.	1876.
Population.....	700	3,359	7,064	13,676	17,000
Assessed Valuation,....	\$530,589 59	\$633,000	\$1,166,475	\$1,782,250	\$1,718,175

The apparent decrease in assessed valuation from 1874 to 1876, is attributable to the modification of ideas of

value, induced by a three years period of commercial depression, the most serious in the history of the Nation.

BAY COUNTY.

	1867	1865	1870.	1874.	1876.
Population.....	1,519	5,517	15,900	24,801	20,000
Assessed Valuation.....	\$652,391	\$1,355,000	\$2,670,198	\$3,300,000	\$3,168,000

SHIPMENTS.

The following table will show the growth and increase of the lumber and salt product of Bay County from 1865 to 1876, as shown by the statistics of shipment :

LUMBER.

1865.	1868.	1873.	1875.
154,727,945 feet.	194,400,000 feet.	265,408,193 feet.	338,609,304 feet.

Of the cut of 1875 the mills of the city contributed 223,350,287 feet.

SALT.

1865.	1873.	1874.	1875.
259,061 barrels.	352,000 barrels.	426,256 barrels.	493,546 barrels.

Of the products of 1875, 389,758 barrels were from blocks within the city limits, 103,788 being contributed by the balance of the county, the salt blocks being wholly on the banks of the Saginaw River.

As an index of the growth and extent of the salt interest of the Saginaw Valley, the following table, showing the shipments from the earliest development of the business, will be of interest :

1860.....	4,000 barrels.
1861.....	125,000 “
1865.....	477,200 “
1870.....	646,516 “
1875.....	1,081,875 “

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION.

BAY CITY IN 1876.

Mayor—ARCHIBALD McDONELL.
 Recorder—ISAAC G. WORDEN.
 Controller—PATRICK J. PERROTT.
 Treasurer—CHARLES S. BRADDOCK.
 City Attorney—WINSOR SCOFIELD.
 City Marshal—JAMES A. WELLS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

1st Ward, JOHN McEWEN, MERRILL F. WILCOX.
 2nd “ BENJAMIN SHEPHARD, HENRY HOLMES.
 3rd “ SANFORD V. WILKINS, JOHN WILD.
 4th “ SAMUEL KAICHEN, DARWIN C. SMALLEY.
 5th “ JAMES LAING, DONALD McDONALD.
 6th “ WILLIAM DAGLISH, ALBERT MILLER.
 7th “ ORVILL A. WATROUS, CHARLES STEVENS.
 Street Commissioner—JOHN KILLDUFF.
 Health Officer and Director of Poor—THOMAS CARNEY,
 SEN.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS.

The Board of Water Commissioners as existing in
 1876, is as follows :

President—William Westover.
 1st Ward, —Andrew Walton.
 2nd “ —Thomas Cranage, Jr.
 3rd “ —William Westover.
 4th “ —William Smalley.
 5th “ —Henry M. Bradley.
 6th “ —James Clark, M. D.
 7th “ —William C McClure.

Superintendent and Secretary—Erastus L. Dunbar.
 1st Engineer—A. B. Verity.
 2nd “ —Fred H. Holly.

TELEGRAPHS.

The city boasts two lines of telegraphic communication with the world, the Western Union established in 1863, and the Atlantic and Pacific established in 1874. The telegraphic business of Bay City during 1875 was in excess of that of any other locality in the State excepting the city of Detroit.



First National Bank Building,

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The city enjoys the advantages of a public library comprising 5,500 volumes, the joint property of an association of public-spirited citizens, and of the Board of Education, being under the management of the latter. The citizens generally are in the enjoyment of the facilities thus afforded, free of expense, and its use is almost universal among them.

WENONA AND BANKS.

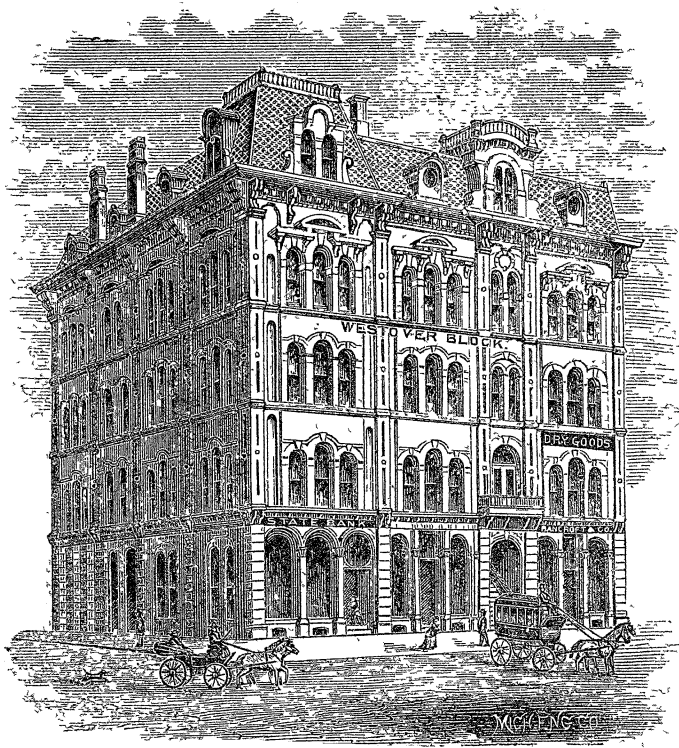
NEXT in importance to Bay City, rank the villages of Wenona and Banks in their respective order. Both are situated in the township of Bangor, on the west bank of the Saginaw river, and are noted for their enterprise, and, especially in the case of Wenona, for rapid growth and substantial development. Wenona, in 1863 containing but two buildings, now boasts a population of probably 2,200 souls, and contains a number of elegant and ornamental brick blocks, including a school house, accommodating 600 pupils, second in its appointments to no other school building in the county. The village has a Presbyterian, Methodist, German Lutheran, Episcopalian and Roman Catholic church organization, instituted in the order named, each possessing good church buildings and properties, and maintaining efficient Sabbath schools. An opera house has this spring been completed, and the business blocks of H.W. Sage & Co. and others, rank in point of size and appearance among the best of its more pretentious neighbor, Bay City. An excellent iron bridge, elsewhere mentioned, connects Wenona with Bay City, while the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad connects her with the

outside world. The saw mill of H. W. Sage & Co. is one of the finest in the world, and gives employ and business to hundreds of laboring men and merchants. The Lumberman's State Bank, of Wenona, S. O. Fisher, President, H. H. Norrington, Cashier, is doing a good business on a capital of \$50,000.

The village of Banks was settled at an early day in the history of Bay County, and was incorporated a village in 1873. The progress of this village has not been as rapid as that of the other village organizations, but it is the center of a growing and active population. It is situated opposite to the north portion of Bay City, and has within its limits three extensive saw mills, each of which has salt works attached, while the salt works of Leng & Bradfield are run independent of mills. The population of Banks is largely engaged in the catch and packing of the excellent fish with which the river and bay abound. The value of the white fish, lake trout, pickerel and other kinds of fish shipped from the river aggregates probably \$75,000 per annum. There are Episcopal and Methodist church organizations, the latter having a commodious house of worship. The village boasts of an excellent school building ; and an extensive ship yard and a good tannery are within her limits.



3892
E.B. 1
Bay Co.



Westover Block, Bay City, Mich.